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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A storage operating control system, comprising:  
an external storage device having storage data and storage operating data  
and a service processor for operating said storage operating data;  
a host computer coupled with said external storage device via a first  
connection; ~~and so as to read/write said storage data from/to said external storage  
device; and~~  
a storage management server coupled with said host computer via a second  
connection and said service processor via a third connection,  
wherein said storage management server executes a storage operating data  
server program, and  
wherein said host computer executes an application program associated with  
said storage operating data server program so as to read/write said storage  
operating data from/to said external storage device through said storage  
management server and said third connection, and wherein said host computer  
reads/writes said storage data from/to said external storage device through said first  
connection.

8. (Previously Presented) The storage operating control system according to  
Claim 7, wherein said host computer operates in accordance with said storage

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operating data which the storage management server reads from said external storage device.

9. (Currently Amended) A storage operating control system as defined in the claim 7, comprising a switch for selectively shutting off said third connection between said service processor and said storage management server.

10. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in the claim 9, wherein said switch is provided in an interface of said service processor.

11. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in the claim 7, wherein said storage management server comprising a WWW (World Wide Web) terminal connection and a WWW server program to allow access of the storage operating data using the WWW terminal connection.

12. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in the claim 7, wherein communication between said host computer and said storage management server on said second connection is at least partially conducted using JAVA Remote Method Invocation (RMI) on a transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP).

13. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in the claim 7, wherein communication between said service processor and said

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storage management server on said third connection is at least partially conducted using JAVA Remote Method Invocation (RMI) on a transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP).

14. (Currently Amended) A storage operating control system, comprising:  
an external storage device having storage data and configuration information and a service processor for operating said configuration information;  
a host computer coupled with said external storage device via a first connection; ~~and so as to read/write said storage data from/to said external storage device; and~~  
a storage management server coupled with said host computer via a second connection and said service processor via a third connection,  
wherein said storage management server executes a storage operating data server program, and  
wherein said host computer executes an application program associated with said storage operating data server program so as to read/write said configuration information from/to said external storage device through said storage management server and said third connection, and wherein said host computer reads/writes said storage data from/to said external storage device through said first connection..

15. (Previously Presented) The storage operating control system according to Claim 14, wherein said host computer operates in accordance with said configuration

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information which the storage management server reads from said external storage device.

16. (Currently Amended) A storage operating control system as defined in the claim 14, comprising a switch for selectively shutting off said third connection between said service processor and said storage management server.

17. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in the claim 16, wherein said switch is provided in an interface of said service processor.

18. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in the claim 14, wherein said storage management server comprising a WWW (World Wide Web) terminal connection and a WWW server program to allow access of the configuration information using the WWW terminal connection.

19. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in the claim 14, wherein communication between said host computer and said storage management server on said second connection is at least partially conducted using JAVA Remote Method Invocation (RMI) on a transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP).

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20. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in the claim 14, wherein communication between said service processor and said storage management server on said third connection is at least partially conducted using JAVA Remote Method Invocation (RMI) on a transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP).